Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

19 October 2006

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellites and Information Service

Last bulletin: October 16, 2006

Conditions Report

A harmful algal bloom has been identified from Pinellas to central Collier Counties. In northern Pinellas, patchy very low impacts are expected today and Friday and no impacts are expected Saturday and Sunday. In southern Pinellas and northern Lee, patchy low impacts are expected today and Friday and patchy very low impacts are expected Saturday and Sunday. In Manatee, Charlotte, southern Lee and northern Collier, patchy moderate impacts are expected today and Friday and patchy low impacts are expected Saturday and Sunday. In Sarasota, patchy high impacts are expected today and Friday and patchy moderate impacts are expected Saturday and Sunday.

Analysis

The harmful algal bloom persists from Pinellas to central Collier Counties and far offshore Monroe County. Based on a wind transport model, the bloom may have moved northward ~20-35 km since 10/16. Present imagery (10/18) is obscured by clouds concealing northern portions of the bloom; however, elevated chlorophyll levels (>30 μg/L) are visible from 26°50.8'N 82°19.8'W to 26°15.1'N 82°20.6'W (offshore Charlotte to offshore northern Collier; ~18 mi wide). And two features of elevated chlorophyll levels (>30 μg/L) are centered about the following locations: 26°15.1'N 82°9.3'W (offshore Collier) and 25°44.7'N 81°43.9'W (offshore the Collier/Monroe border). Sampling is highly recommended. The most recent samples confirm that *K. brevis* levels have remained stable in northern Pinellas County (very low a), Charlotte County (low a) and central Collier County (medium), and have increased to low b in Pine Island Sound in Lee County (FWRI; 10/16).

Moderate onshore winds today, Friday and Sunday will increase impacts at the coast. No significant intensification of the bloom is expected. Bloom will maintain location at the coast.

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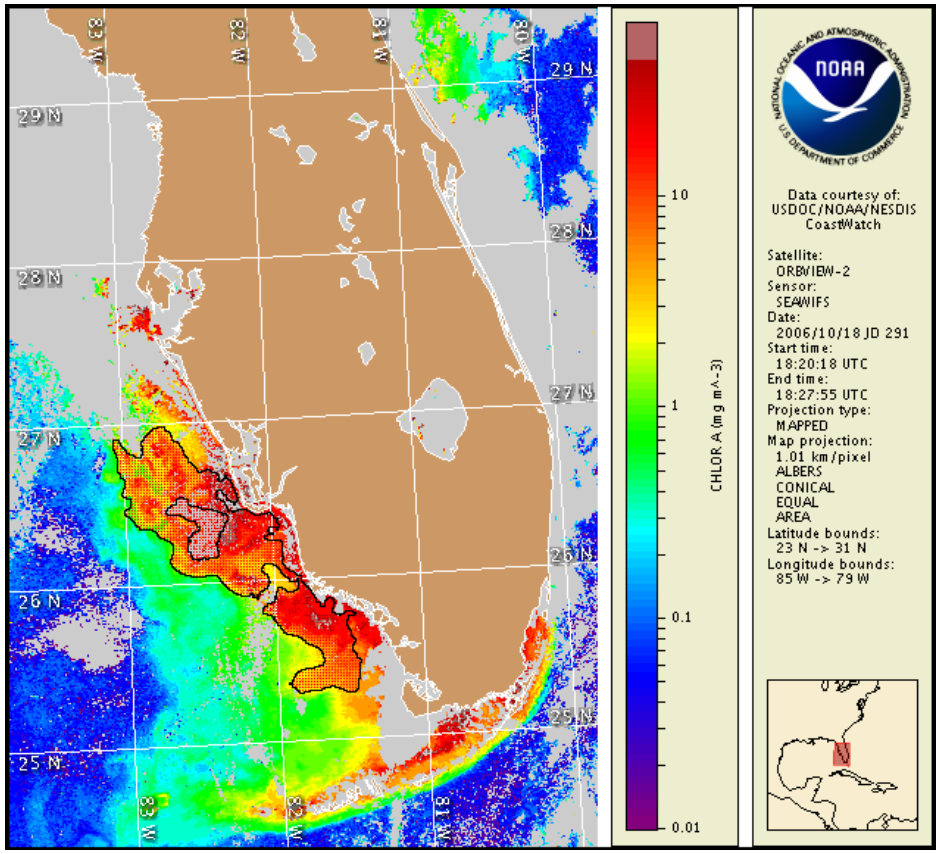
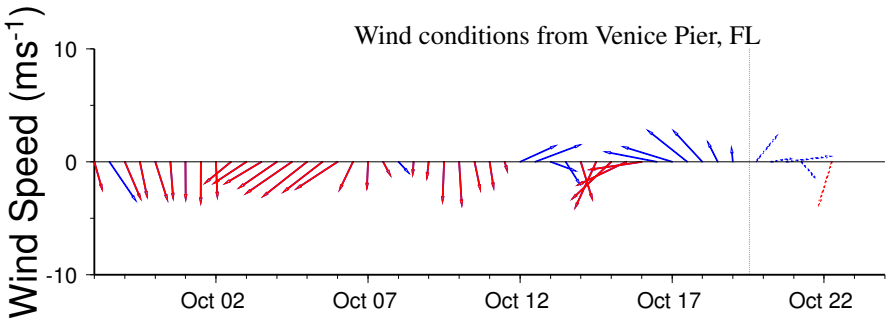


Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration categories and corresponding cell count values from Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute. For a key to the cell concentration descriptions, visit http://research.myfwc.com.

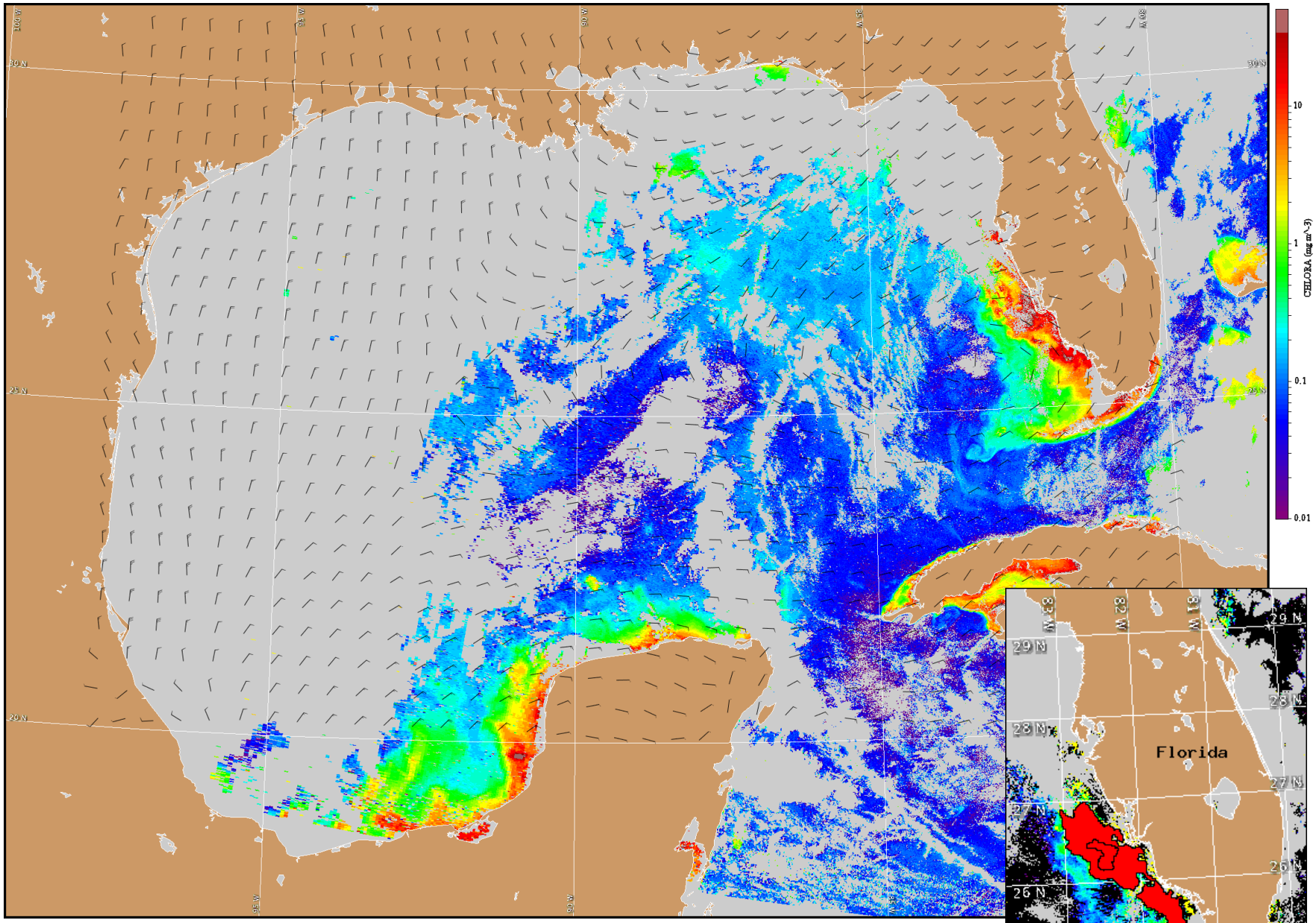


Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.

SW Florida: Onshore winds today and Friday (5-10 kts, 3-5 m/s). Light variable winds Saturday (5 kts, 3 m/s). Onshore winds Sunday and Monday (5-10 kts, 3-5 m/s).

Please note the following restrictions on all SeaWiFS imagery derived from CoastWatch.

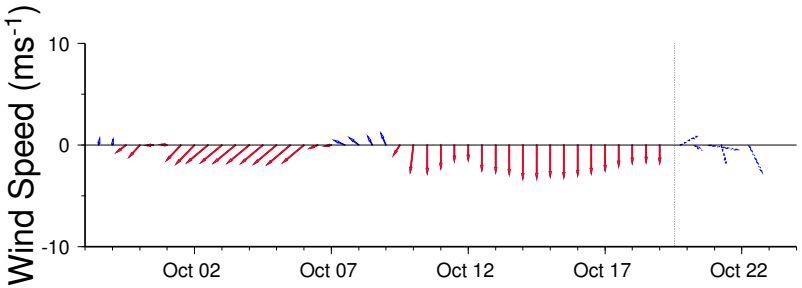
1. Data are restricted to civil marine applications only; i.e. federal, state, and local government use/distribution is permitted.
2. Image products may be published in newspapers. Any other publishing arrangements must receive GeoEye approval via the CoastWatch Program.



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for October 20, 2006 06Z.

Verifi ed HAB areas shown in red. Other bloom areas shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).

Wind conditions from Naples, FL



Wind conditions from Clearwater Beach, FL